letters

We Can Thank Ourselves

Editor, Daily Nexus:

As a fellow ski bum who does not enjoy forking out $12 for a lift ticket, I am in empathy with Larry McEwan's whimperings. However, you are confused and I shall attempt to bring light to your naive misconceptions about our 'free enterprize system.'

First of all, having worked with the Tahoe Planning I know from experience that when new resorts, such as Mineral King, begin running their cute little chairlifts up their cute little hills where cuter little squirrels once played in cuter little trees, lift ticket rates don't go down, they go up. "But the laws of supply and demand!" you sputter with your diploma taped to your forehead, "they taught me the secrets of supply and demand here at UCSB!" Larry, don't embarrass us.

The house decision to stop construction of Mineral King is one of the few environmental measures that has ever been decreed by the house. They have already defeated the Alskan Land Bill in the Senate, is this the kind of representation you want? You stated in your letter that the "majority" was for the development of Mineral King, but lost because of public apathy. Well, Larry, in factuality you are wrong. The temporary victory at Mineral King was due to a large number of concerned folk that statistically represent the majorities' depositon on the matter.

The Disney Corporation is a profit based organization, they do not build ski resorts for skiiers, they build them for M-O-N-E-Y.

Furthermore, all the problems you blame on the shortage of downhill ski areas are in fact due to a surplus of people. I'd like to take this opportunity to point a profound finger at the root of 99 percent of our mundane dilemnas of today...it's you, over-population. Our supplies are being depleted as our demand goes disco. Do us a favor Larry, get a vasectomy, then we'll see ya in the lift line.

Rattlesnake Cutthroat Johnson

Editor, Daily Nexus:

An open letter to Larry McEwen.

What makes you think that the "majority" of U.S. citizens are people who would like to see beautiful mountainsides denuded of trees and covered with metal chairs and parking lots? Mineral King was not saved from your clutches by "apathy." It was hard work! And it took a long time.

I can understand your being aggravated by the long lines of skiers, but if it wasn't worth it people wouldn't do it. And you must admit Larry, that skiing is an expensive sport, and if you've got the money to buy the equipment, $12 isn't going to break you. Besides, look at the price of concert tickets or a dinner out, and they only last a few hours!

I'm not trying to take away your good time, but look around at "civilization" encroaching on prime agricultural land and our fewer and fewer remaining forests. If you want to expand your sport, pick a spot less beautiful than Mineral King. Or take up hiking. I'm sure skiing's a rush, but have you ever stood on a 10,000 foot peak, knowing you got there on your own two feet?

Take another look at that apathy. I think you'll find that those who are environmentally awake far outnumber the skiers.

Judi Buonguidi

P.S. If the John Muir Trail is the only place you've hiked, you are really missing out.

Editor, Daily Nexus:

Regarding Larry McEwen's Letter (Oct. 23):

Contrary to your statement 'we have only ourselves to blame,' Mr. McEwen, it is our feeling that we have only ourselves to praise (for the Congressional decision to add Mineral King to Sequoia National Park, putting an end to any possibility of development.)

We have spent twenty days in the past two summers travelling on foot in and around the Mineral King area. It is one of the most beautiful and rugged areas in the High Sierra. To see it developed with lodges, ski lifts, stores, parking lots, and of course the denuding of forested slopes to make way for the hordes of skiers, would sicken our stomachs and sadden our hearts.

You complain about Yosemite National Park's "pollution, crime and overcrowding." We agree that it is this way in the developed resort areas. But, by stopping the commerecial ski developers, Mineral King is one step closer to being saved from the same fate, and if the National Parks Service learned anything from the rape of Yosemite (and I'm sure they did since there is a plan underway with measures to remedy the damage done there), then Mineral King will be saved fromt the summer resort developers also.

Finally, Mr. McEwen, we suggest that you head up to Mineral King and check it out. Of course, if you go this winter the road will be closed, but then you can put on your cross country skiis and really get close to the land. You'll find yourself in God's unspoiled high country. Let's hope it stays that way.

Kevin Morgan
Cheryl Eddy

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